

Remarks

The Official Action dated March 11, 2004 has been carefully considered. In view of the present amendment and these remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

In the March 11, 2004 Official Action, claims 12-23 are indicated to be allowed. Claims 4-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combined disclosures of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,410,016, 5,112,611, 5,531,917 and 5,171,737, for reasons previously made of record. The Examiner points out in this regard that applicants have dropped the limitation regarding cross-linking.

In accordance with the present amendment, claim 4 has been amended to include the recitation that the block copolymer constituent is not cross-linked to form networks. This recitation was previously set forth in the claim amendment submitted with applicants' Request for Continued Examination filed February 28, 2003. The omission of this claim recitation from the amendment filed October 13, 2003 was due to an oversight. As a result of the present amendment, claim 4 defines essentially the same subject matter that was found allowable in the May 13, 2003 Official Action.

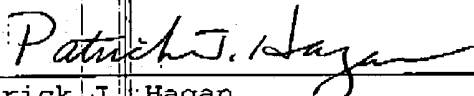
Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. This amendment neither introduces new matter into the application nor requires further examination and/or search

and is entirely consistent with the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in the May 13, 2003 Official Action.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application, i.e. claims 4-26, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures